

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158109
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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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TAGS:OCLR, CGEN, MX

SUBJECT: SEARCH AND RESCUE, U.S. - MEXICAN COOPERATION

REF: A) MEXICAN 07762 B) STATE 148924

1. RE THE BROADENED APPROACH TO THE PROPOSED US - MEXICAN SAR DISCUSSIONS SUGGESTED BY THE EMBASSY (REF A.) AND CONCURRED IN BY THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES (REF B.), WE HAVE NOTED THE GROWING NUMBER OF SEARCH AND RESCUE INCIDENTS IN MEXICO AND THE CONSEQUENT INCREASED EXPOSURE GIVEN TO THEM IN U.S. NEWS MEDIA AND THE HEIGHTENED PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. AS IN MANY OTHER AREAS OF EMERGENCY SERVICE TO THE U.S. PUBLIC ABROAD, OUR IMPROVED RESPONSE HAS REQUIRED THE TIMELY TRAVEL OF CONSULAR OFFICERS (AND OTHERS) TO THE ACCIDENT OR SEARCH AREA TO INITIATE AND COORDINATE ACTIVITIES BY
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 158109

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TO ASSIST AND COOPERATE WITH OTHER U.S. SAR ELEMENTS ON THE SCENE. A RECENT EFFECTIVE EXAMPLE OF THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT CONCERNED THE UNFORTUNATE KAYAK ACCIDENT IN THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA NEAR LORETO, B.C.

2. WE INDICATED IN STATE 148924 THE EXPANDED INTERAGENCY INTEREST AND COORDINATION RE PREPARATION HERE FOR THE

MEXICAN SAR DISCUSSIONS. THE OFFICE OF MEXICAN AFFAIRS

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AND THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS (CA REPRESENTS DEPARTMENT ON INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON SAR) ARE COORDINATING CLOSELY DEVELOPING DEPARTMENT'S INPUT TO ICSAR. WE BELIEVE SIMILAR EXPANDED APPROACH BY EMBASSY IN PREPARATION FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN IDENTIFYING IN-COUNTRY SAR PROBLEMS, THEIR SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS, AND INSURING THE DESIRED CLOSE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION OF THE CONCERNED OFFICES AND SECTIONS.

3. A VALUABLE SPINOFF OF THE US - MEXICAN TALKS IS THE REVIEW OF CURRENT SAR PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED BY OUR PREPARATIONS. WE CAN INSURE THAT WE DO HAVE PROCEDURES PROVIDING FOR EARLY AND EFFECTIVE COORDINATION AMONG THE U.S. SAR ELEMENTS BOTH WITHIN MEXICO AND BETWEEN THE CONCERNED AGENCIES HERE.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS AND U.S. POSITIONS NOT LIKELY BE COMPLETED PRIOR END OF AUGUST. ACCORDINGLY, WE SUGGEST MID SEPTEMBER AS REALISTIC PERIOD IN WHICH TO INITIATE TALKS. HOWEVER, SELECTION OF MEETING DATES WILL ALSO DEPEND ON MEXICAN REQUIREMENTS. THEREFORE, IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS, EMBASSY REQUESTED DISCUSS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 158109

APPROPRIATE MEXICAN OFFICIALS GENERAL APPROACH OUTLINED IN REFTELS AND THE SUGGESTED TIME FRAME CONTAINED THIS MESSAGE IN ORDER DETERMINE THEIR RECEPTIVENESS TO DISCUSSIONS AND MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATES. WE PLAN PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH AGENDA ITEMS AND POSITION PAPERS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

5. IF ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY REPLY. VANCE

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